

## Message Text

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51

ACTION SPM-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 OIC-04 SP-03 SS-20

NSC-07 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 HEW-08 PC-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2838

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, SPOP, UNWPC

SUBJECT: LIBERIAN DELEGATION TO WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 161933

1. LIBERIAN DELEGATION TO WPC WILL BE HEADED BY MINHEALTH OLIVER W. BRIGHT. ONLY OTHER KNOWN MEMBERS ARE SAMEUL D. GREENE, DEPUTY MIN OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (ALSO SENIOR GOL OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR DEMOGRAPHIC MATTERS), AND SENATOR ELIZABETH K. COLLINS (LIBERIA'S MOST PROMINENT AND INFLUENTIAL FEMALE POLITICIAN). WILL ADVISE IF ADDITIONAL DELEGATES NAMED. REGARDLESS OF FINAL COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION, THESE THREE WILL PROBABLY BE THE MOVERS AND SHAKERS.

2. BRIGHT IS VIGOROUS, ARTICULATE, OUTSPOKENLY NATIONALISTIC, 41-YEAR-OLD LAWYER WHO HAS BEEN IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE SINCE 1961, MOSTLY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IS GRADUATE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL AND FLETCHER SCHOOL. IS FORMER DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. SOME CONSIDER HIM ARROGANT AND DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH. IN THE PAST HE HAS BEEN REPORTED AS INCLINED TO INTENTIONALLY ANTAGONIZE USG OFFICIALS. PRESENT USG OFFICIAL

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RELATIONS WITH HIM ARE GOOD, IF NOT NECESSARILY WARM. BRIGHT

IS AN ACCOMPLISHED INTERNATIONAL TRAVELLER AND CONFEREES.

3. GREENE, 43, PURDUE GRADUATE (1956), IS TRAINED STATISTICIAN WHO HAS WORKED HIS WAY UP THROUGH MINISTRY SINCE 1958. GREENE WAS RECENTLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF AFRICAN REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON POPULATION. GREENE IS FRIENDLY, CAPABLE AND THOROUGHLY DEDICATED TO HIS JOB. HE IS A DISTANT RELATION OF THE LIBERIAN VICE PRESIDENT.

4. SENATOR COLLINS, 68, WAS FIRST WOMAN ELECTED TO LIBERIAN SENATE. HAS BEEN IN SENATE SINCE 1964. AN EDUCATOR WITH MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS EXPERIENCE PRIOR TO ELECTION TO THE SENATE. FORMER CHAIRMAN SENATE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION. FORMER CHAIRMAN OF BOARD FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF LIBERIA (FPAL). SENATOR COLLINS IS, AND HAS BEEN FOR MANY YEARS, QUITE ACTIVE IN WOMEN'S CAUSES AND ORGANIZATIONS. SHE IS AN ARTICULATE AND WELL-TRAVELED INDIVIDUAL.

5. WE HAVE NO DIRECT INDICATION AS GOL ATTITUDES VIS-A-VIS CONFERENCE BUT ASSUME WILL BE POSITIVE IN VIEW CALIBRE OF DELEGATION AND CURRENT GOL INVOLVEMENT IN POPULATION MATTERS. PRESIDENT TOLBERT IS ON PUBLIC RECORD IN SUPPORT FAMILY PLANNING ACTIVITIES. GOL MINHEALTH DEVOTING SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES TO MCH AND FAMILY PLANNING ACTIVITIES AND IS SEEKING INCREASE AMOUNT OF RESOURCES DEVOTED TO POPULATION MATTERS. USAID AND PEACE CORPS BOTH HAVE ACTIVITIES HERE IN SUPPORT MINHEALTH EFFORTS. MIN HEALTH ALSO SUPPORTS FPAL PROGRAM WHICH NOT INSIGNIFICANT. GOL DELEGATION NOT LIKELY GET OUT IN FRONT OTHER DELEGATIONS ON MAJOR ISSUES BECAUSE POPULATION PROBLEMS HERE ARE NOT OF MAGNITUDE OF MOST OTHER LDC'S. (IN FACT, SOME MIGHT ARGUE LIBERIA IS UNDERPOPULATED.) HOWEVER, GIVEN THE PERSONALITIES OF THREE DELEGATES LISTED ABOVE, WE ASSUME THEY WILL BE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN CONFERENCE. GREENE MIGHT BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL CONTACT FOR USDEL BECAUSE HE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE ON SUBSTANTIVE DEMOGRAPHIC MATTERS.

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## Message Attributes

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